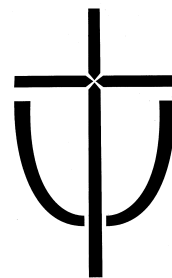


Still Speaking



Indeed, the word of God is living and active...
-Hebrews 4:12

Spring Forward!
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 12

February 2023

Divine Ambiguity Exhibit

The Inside Scoop

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Every once in a while, we fall into something extraordinary.

So it is with how the new art exhibit that will open in Union's church hall this Sunday, Divine Ambiguity by Sheboygan artist Toril Fisher, came into being.

A colleague of mine knows Fisher, and said, "I think this exhibit would go over really well at Union."

When I saw the images I didn't think twice.

Divine Ambiguity is a collection of twelve pieces Fisher painted depicting the divinity of people amidst the most vulnerable conditions. A child in a cage. A black youth in America. A homeless woman. An Afghan woman. A missing or murdered indigenous woman.

Each of the people is portrayed with a gold leaf halo. The message is not subtle. The divine, the sacred, is just as immutably present in the people our world dehumanizes as it is in everyone else. Perhaps even more so.

The leaflet for the exhibit describes Fisher's motivation for creating the series. "Dehumanization denies the dignity, consideration, compassion, and empathy that we typically give other people. Dehumanizing language pollutes the debate, blocks solutions to social problems, and can relax our instinctive aversion to aggression and violence. 'Divine Ambiguity: Reclaiming the Sacred' promotes a celebration of humanity."

When making plans for Union to host the exhibit, my original thought had been to display the paintings in Bagby Chapel, a pretty, quiet, reflective space.



(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**February 19****Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 22**Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

March 5**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 12**Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 19**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 26**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

(continued from page 1)

But the more I prayed about it, it became clear: I wanted these people to be with us on our Lenten journey, to be with us when we eat and play and learn and pray. We do all of those things in the church hall, and so I invite you to see these paintings as divine guests of ours for the season. Remember them. Think of their needs. Go out of your way to figure out how to help those they represent feel more at home in your life and in our church. Make a point to make them, and Fisher's message of compassion, understanding, and seeing the Divine in everyone and everything, part of your Lenten repentance and conversion.

As luck would have it, when I proposed this space, Fisher immediately agreed, and pointed out that when the light is just right, the gold leaf halos behind the figures will shimmer and glow!

We're opening this exhibit on the day our church celebrates Transfiguration, the end of the Epiphany Season, or Season of Light. On Sunday, we'll read about Jesus glowing, dazzling, after he and some of his disciples climb a mountain. Then, we'll climb the stairs to our church hall to contemplate how divinity dazzles within people on the edges of society.

Fisher will be with us in Coffee Hour on Sunday for the opening, and the exhibit will be up through Easter, April 9. Please plan to take time to join with us in thanking Fisher on Sunday, and to come back some time during Lent to soak in the Divine Ambiguity.

The exhibit is free and open to the public February 19 through April 9, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. No appointment necessary.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Attendance

December	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	January	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
1st Sunday	116	34	1st Sunday	online	43
2nd Sunday	126	57	2nd Sunday	101	*
3rd Sunday	112	online only	3rd Sunday	101	*
4th Sunday	no service	28	4th Sunday	92	*
			5th Sunday	105	*
Totals	354	119	Totals	399	43
Average	118.0	39.7	Average	99.8	43.0
Dec. 24 early	114	96	* folks were encouraged to stream our worship service rather than attend in person.		
Dec. 24 late	118	90			



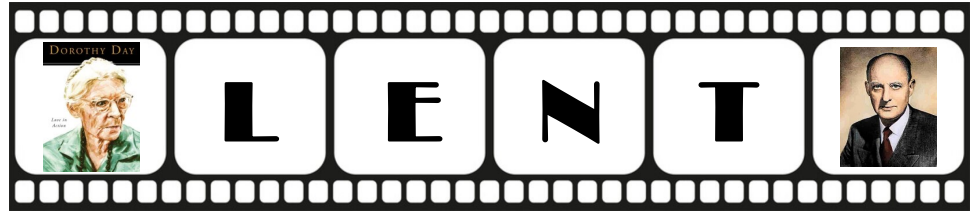
Work Day is Sunday, February 19

We've been talking about generosity a lot here at Union. Have you considered the ways your time can make a difference? Specifically, we have a large facility with many projects that can be addressed directly by us. Consider joining your fellow members in an upcoming workday. It's a chance to be generous with our time, and in doing so deepen our relationships with one another while spiffing up our church building.

Stewardship Ministry has set the date of Sunday, February 19 after Coffee Hour as a time to come together to tackle some of those projects. Bring a set of work clothes and a willing spirit, and members of Stewardship Ministry will put you to work for an hour or three.

Lent is Almost Upon Us! Ash Wednesday is February 22

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The service offers us the possibility to renew our dedication to the ways of Jesus. We will receive the ashes of repentance and the oil of healing. Join us!



Five Prophetic Voices Documentary Series

Our film and discussion series returns this year after a three-year pandemic hiatus.

The Season of Lent calls us to reflection about what our faith means and meditation on the lives of those who have lived their faith with prophetic love and justice. The renowned documentarian, Martin Doblmeier, created a series of award-winning films portraying the faithful genius of five persons who lived a pioneering witness in the modern world. Union will have a Sunday evening Lenten series, February 26 through March 26, using these documentaries, followed by group reaction and discussion led by Michael Lukens.

We will share a soup supper at 5:30 p.m., with the film at 6:00 and discussion at 7:00. Each documentary portrays a prophetic and dynamic figure that has powerfully influenced faith in contemporary life: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr, Howard Thurman, Dorothy Day, and Abraham Heschel.

Please sign up in the church hall or contact the church office if you are willing to provide soup for one of the evenings.

Our Church Family

As we recognize the Divine in everyone and everything, we pray with our friends and members:



Blessing Box Food Drives Move to Communion Sundays

The Blessing Box outside the Mayflower entrance continues to provide a vital service for those in need. Although the Blessing Box may be empty when you walk past it, be assured that it is filled with a variety of items three times a week. Because the need is so great, we are now holding Food Drives on Communion Sundays, the next being March 5.

This shift to Communion Sundays can save a trip for people who are already coming to church, while also symbolically linking our spiritual meal with our neighbors' real life need for meals.

All donations are appreciated, but items of greatest need during the winter include ready-to-eat microwave meals and pouches of chicken, tuna or pulled pork. Donated items can be placed on the steps around the baptismal font on Communion Sundays or in the Blessing Box Bin located near the church office.

We also welcome and appreciate monetary donations! To donate, send a check to the church office either by offering plate or in the mail with "Blessing Box" on the memo line – or go to the church website and click on the "Giving" tab.

Joining the Green Effort



Xavier, Amanda, and Jade Hatton

In the past few months, we put out a call to interested Union members to become part of the church's green strategy. We had one enthusiastic and knowledgeable respondent: Amanda Hatton, who recently joined Union with her family. The Hattons have solar panels on their house, electric vehicles, a robust composting system, and chickens.

But it didn't happen all at once for the Hattons. It began with living out a conviction to become more earth-friendly and taking care of what God has given. Amanda realized that green efforts are investments and assets that pay their way and contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases. Still Amanda asked herself, "How do I do this for the least amount of money, because I don't have a lot of money."

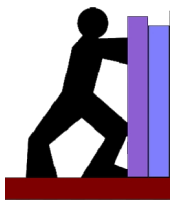
Composting was a low-cost place to start. The idea to have chickens came out of Amanda's daughter's interest in birds. These social egg producers are a natural pest patrol for the home food garden and they complete the composting cycle.

As the family added an all-electric vehicle to the plug-in hybrid they purchased in 2018, Amanda became more familiar with phone accessible charging station groups for longer trips. The solar panels were installed in 2019.

As her practices continue to evolve, Amanda began buying milk in returnable glass bottles as part of a general strategy to reduce single use plastic. She observed, "There's another piece of the familiar reduce – reuse – recycle practice, and that's to refuse."

Come join the conversation! Let's figure out together how to tune our personal and church lives to our convictions for creation care.

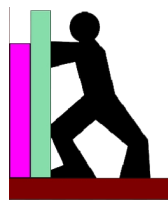
—Cathy Putman



Your Church Library

“Climate Church, Climate World”

by Cathy Putman



The church library has acquired a few books on how the reality of climate change interacts with personal and church responsibilities. One of them came out in 2018 and was written by Jim Antal, the former Massachusetts UCC Conference minister and a veteran of more than 20 years of climate activism. It's called Climate Church, Climate World. There's an updated version coming out in March 2023.

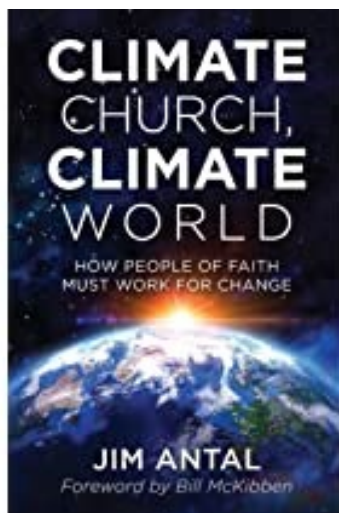
I wanted to like the book more than I did, but that's not to say I wouldn't recommend reading it. Antal throws wads of scripture, theology, ethics, church practices and activism at the wall to see what sticks. He embraces the importance of moral indignation which propels urgency—a laundry list of “we musts”—and self-examination that seeks to be reconciled to the earth and its fullness. Drawing from Brueggemann's The Prophetic Imagination, Antal repeatedly asks us to “imagine if.”

Antal quotes important justice voices such as Wendell Berry, Desmond Tutu, Pope Francis, and Abraham Joshua Hershel. These short excerpts reflect sustained arguments for the urgency to act and grief for climate change consequences. Tutu sums up, “[Jesus'] supreme work is to reconcile us to God and to one another and, indeed, to reconcile us to all of God's creation.” And that's the crux for Antal. Addressing the consequences of a changing climate does not supersede the classic work of the church, but lifts up a neglected dimension.

In lifting up how a congregation can become reconciled to the earth, Antal sketches out some possibilities: a sacrament of dirt to enlarge our anthropocentric focus, recognizing our accountability to future generations as a form of loving our neighbors, and civil disobedience. His book is chock full of peaceful protests that worked to voice concerns and pressure law makers to grapple with the science and consequences of rising temperatures.

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the nation is accepting the narrative Antal and others have been preaching for decades. This sets the stage for how churches and congregants will choose to mitigate their carbon footprints.

Anyone interested in crafting some suggestions for Worship Ministry, Stewardship Ministry or Common Ministry would do well to look at the writing of Antal and his mentors. I'd be happy to convene a study/action group. Meanwhile, the book is in the basket under the windows in the church library along with additional resources.



Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets February 20 & March 20



Join us at 11:30 a.m.
at the Village Grille

Questions? Contact Sue Zanzig
at 920-494-4172

Priscilla Circle Meets February 28

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28 in the English Room. Barbara McClure-Lukens will speak about Barbara's Berlin: A highly personal view, shared through photos, of one of Europe's most intriguing cities. Join us.

One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering is March 19

One Great Hour of Sharing is a churchwide offering to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. Through this offering, we invest in communities worldwide by providing education and vocational training to girls and boys, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.



this 24-hour online giving event. It gives them an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for their mission while giving the public the chance to learn about local nonprofits, all on one online platform.

Give BIG Green Bay has raised \$8 million over the past five years. A total of \$500,000 in matching funds is available for donations made through the Give BIG Green Bay website during the event. In addition to the online giving opportunity, checks can also be made out to the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation with the nonprofit the funds should be donated to listed in the memo.

Give BIG Green Bay 2023 will take place from noon Tuesday, February 21 until noon Wednesday, February 22. Donations made by check must be received by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22 to qualify for matching dollars. Please visit www.givebiggreenbay.org for a full list of participating organizations.

We are excited to share that Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH), the Brain Center of Greater Green Bay, We All Rise African American Resource Center, and many other organizations Union has partnered with over the years have been selected to participate in Give BIG Green Bay 2023! This annual event is coordinated by the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and the Green Bay Packers. Each year, 45 local nonprofit organizations are selected to participate in

Volunteers Needed

EPH has several volunteer opportunities available for people interested in making a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness! EPH is looking for ongoing office help, people to help get homes ready for new families by cleaning and stocking supplies, and people with light maintenance skills. If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please reach out to Crystal DeCleene at 920-857-4848.

We All Rise Opens Transitional Living Facility

To our dear friends at Union: All of us at We All Rise African American Resource Center wanted to reach out to personally invite you to our upcoming open house, celebrating our recently expanded efforts into residential services. All Seasons Transformation is a transitional living facility for all men through all transitions of life, and we are opening our doors to the public on Tuesday, February 21 (noon until 8). Throughout the full open house, tours will be offered by staff. Come to tour, talk with agency staff, and learn about our latest expansion of services!

Accessibility Note: Please be advised that the

tour will include three floors of the building. Due to our elevator currently being out, the first floor is the only accessible floor at this time. For questions, please get in touch with our executive directors' office at 920-770-9269.

OPEN HOUSE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
TUESDAY, FEB 21ST, 2023,
FROM NOON UNTIL 8 PM
AT 430 S CLAY STREET,
GREEN BAY WI 54301

www.weallrisearc.org



Union Church Calendar

February 19, 2023—March 26, 2023

February 19 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 11:15 a.m. Divine Ambiguity opening

Stewardship Work Day
after worship

February 20 Monday

- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille

February 21 Tuesday

Spring Primary Election

- NO Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

February 22 Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary

February 25 Saturday

- 2:00 p.m. Suzuki Music Academy Recital

February 26 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday Lenten Series

February 28 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 1 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

March 5 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online
 - 5:30 p.m. Sunday Lenten Series
- Stock the Box Drive

March 7 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 2:30 p.m. Education Ministry
- 4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 8 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

March 9 Thursday

- 5:00 p.m. Membership and Inreach Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

March 12 Sunday

- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday Lenten Series

March 14 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 15 Wednesday

- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

March 19 Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday Lenten Series

March 20 Monday

- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille

March 21 Tuesday

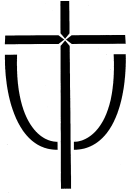
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 22 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

March 26 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday Lenten Series



Union Congregational
United Church of Christ
716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

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GREEN BAY, WI

Help for the Homeless Spring Hygiene Drive

Did you know that hygiene and cleaning items are not covered by FoodShare/Food Stamps? Help for the Homeless' annual spring hygiene drive runs through March 5, 2023 to help supplement these items.

This drive works to stock the shelves of 83 homeless and crisis programs in the Fox Valley and north central Wisconsin for the year. All donations stay in the community where they are collected. These donations allow these support programs to dedicate their time to providing resources for personnel, safe housing, food, and education to people they serve.

— — Most Needed Items — —

- Deodorant
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Paper towels
- Hair Care Products, including BIPOC hair types
- Body and face wash/soap
- Feminine care products
- Dental care products and toothbrushes

Please review the list of most needed items and donate!
A collection bin is located in the coatroom at Union.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: office@unionucc.com
(920) 437-9266

Bridget M. Flad Daniels

Senior Minister

Tim Harder, M.D.

Moderator

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information about us,
visit our web page
at <http://www.unionucc.com>